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Possible King Slaying Witness Leaving Mental Facility

MEMPHIS (UPI) — A possible witness in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will soon be released from a Bolivar mental hospital she was committed to three months after King's death.

But publicity may keep Grace Walden, 62, from having a place to live when she is released, authorities said yesterday.

Mrs. Walden has said she saw a man running down a boarding house hallway only seconds after King was struck by a fatal rifle shot. The boarding house is across Mulberry Street from the Lorraine Motel, where King was killed.

She told a Memphis television station that James Earl Ray is not the man she saw April 4, 1968. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence on a guilty plea for King's murder.

Suffering "chronic brain syndrome due to alcoholism," Mrs. Walden had a history of mental problems even before the King slaying, a hospital doctor said.